

Decisions submitted to silence procedure following a formal meeting with remote participation of the 43rd session of Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management on 1-3 June 2022

Agenda item	Document (LINK)	Decision
1.	Annotated provisional agenda <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/1</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ECE_TIM_EFC_WP.2_2022_1_en.pdf	The meeting adopted the provisional agenda.
2.		The Joint Working Party took note of the information provided and thanked the secretariat. The Joint Working Party also highlighted the Joint Section's contribution to the implementation of the SDGs. At the request of delegations, the secretariat will add an item on fostering exchanges and cooperation among regional and international organizations to the agenda of the November 2022 session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) as well as the 2023 Joint Session of Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission (EFC).
3	Revision of the Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/Inf.1</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/2022-ece-tim-efc-wp-inf-1-e-only%20.pdf	The Joint Working Party took note of the draft text presented in EFC/WP.2/Inf.1, proposed several amendments to the text and requested the secretariat to upload the revised version to the meeting website as a post-session document. The Joint Working Party deferred the decision on the revision of the Rules of Procedure for the Joint Working Party to its next session. The Joint Working Party requested to prepare the background document for the next discussion in all official languages of the ECE.
4	Forests and the circular economy <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/Inf.2</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/2022-ece-tim-efc-wp-inf-2-e-only.pdf	The Joint Working Party: a. Thanked the secretariat for the excellent work on forests and the circular economy done so far. b. Requested the secretariat to proceed with the suggested series of studies and to create a platform for knowledge exchange and advancement of work on the study planned for this year. c. Requested the secretariat to take into consideration the renewable nature of wood as a raw material and holistic approach to the sustainable carbon cycle, including carbon removal and carbon farming initiatives. d. Requested the secretariat to proceed with the work on a definition of a circular economy in the forest sector and to create a platform for collaborative participation of member States in this work. e. Requested the secretariat to communicate comments on the generic definition of a circular economy to the ECE "Task Force on measuring the circular economy" and to the "Expert group on a new generation of information for a resource-efficient and circular economy" of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). f. Thanked the secretariat for the organization of the interactive session in working groups as an interesting element in the Joint Working Party session structure.

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5 (a)	<p>Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/3</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ECE_TIM_EFC_WP.2_2022_3_en.pdf</p> <p>Guidance on the ongoing project on reporting and assessment of forest damage and disturbance in the ECE region <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/Inf.3</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/2022-ec-e-tim-efc-wp-inf-3-e-only%20.pdf</p>	<p>The Joint Working Party:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Congratulated and thanked the Team of Specialists (ToS), its experts and the secretariat for their work on forest resources monitoring, reporting and assessment. b. Welcomed the ECE, FAO and Forest Europe agreement on the collaborative work and the timely initiation of work on the 2025 reporting cycle. The Joint Working Party supported plans for the digitalization of the joint 2025 ECE/FAO/Forest Europe data collection on forests and forest management in the pan-European region. c. Welcomed the progress made in the development of tools for sharing forest sector related information, such as the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) data platform, the Joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe pan-European database, the ECE/FAO INForest knowledge platform and the ECE Statistical Database. d. Recommended the further strengthening of work on the application of information technology in managing and sharing information on forests and sustainable management in the ECE region. e. Took note of the ongoing project on reporting and assessment of forest damage and disturbance in the ECE region and underlined the actualness and current significance of the topic. f. Welcomed the continuation of work of the ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, its support to the implementation of the Integrated Programme of Work and called-for strengthening its cooperation with relevant actors active in this area.
5 (a)	<p>Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/3</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ECE_TIM_EFC_WP.2_2022_3_en.pdf</p>	<p>The Joint Working Party:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Thanked Mr. Alex McCusker, who recently retired from the secretariat, for his many years of work on forest product statistics in the region. b. Supported the recommendation of the ToS Forest Products and Wood Energy Statistics (FPWES) that trade data supplied through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) by national correspondents was important to collect and should be preferred over COMTRADE data, which may be used as a second resort. c. Welcomed and supported the Secretariat's work to assess the potential to automate, to the extent feasible, JFSQ data collection, processing, checking, and verification, in consultation with relevant Teams of Specialists, and noted the potential to streamline reporting rounds by national correspondents. d. Noted that if data obtained was taken automatically from sources such as COMTRADE, it should be validated by national correspondents. e. Supported the secretariat to continue work to submit proposed revisions for the 2027 update of the Harmonized System (HS) Trade Classification to the World Customs Organization, in coordination with the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Products Statistics (IWG). f. Referred consultations on proposed revisions to the JFSQ 2023 to the ToS on FPWES, based also on consultations of the secretariat with members of the IWG on Forest Products Statistics. g. Referred consultations on Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange to the ToS on FPWES. h. Noted the need for mutual support among member States to share experiences on statistical data collection and reporting. i. Requested that the Timber Forecast Questionnaire (TFQ) reporting deadline be extended into October 2022, rather than the current proposed date of 30 September 2022, if feasible, while noting that replies typically need to be received 4-6 weeks ahead of COFFI to allow for processing by the secretariat.

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5 (a)	Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/3</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ECE_TIM_EFC_WP.2_2022_3_en.pdf	<p>The Joint Working Party congratulated the secretariat for the successful publication of the Forest Products Annual Market Review (FPAMR) and provided the following feedback on the improvements of the Review proposed by the Team of Specialists:</p> <p>Member States stated that they were in favour of an exclusively online, machine readable version. No print or PDF version of the Forest Products Annual Market Review was required in the future. The Joint Working Party requested the secretariat to redirect its resources used for layout and print in the past to develop an electronic publication similar to the one published in 2020.</p> <p>The Joint Working Party took note of the need for a longer-term perspective to produce the Forest Products Annual Market Review based on a sound financial basis for expert contributions to the various chapters.</p>
5 (a)	Work Area 1: Data, monitoring, reporting and assessment <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/3</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ECE_TIM_EFC_WP.2_2022_3_en.pdf	<p>The Joint Working Party congratulated the secretariat for its work on wood energy data collection and dissemination and invited the secretariat to conduct another round of data collection via the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE). As some member States stated that the data over time may not be fully comparable for their country due to improvements in data availability and quality, the Joint Working Party invited the secretariat to consider the possibility of revising previous datasets in the future.</p> <p>The Joint Working Party invited countries to consider whether the JWEE could be made an annual questionnaire during its next session and requested the secretariat to discuss this at its next session.</p> <p>The Joint Working Party took note of the need for capacity-building events in order to improve the response rate to and quality of the JWEE. In response, the secretariat highlighted its intention to conduct a capacity-building event on wood energy data collection in late 2022 and invited countries to consider hosting such an event that would bring together experts from forestry and energy sectors.</p> <p>The Joint Working Party confirmed the continued necessity to further improve cross-sectoral cooperation on wood energy matters and invited the secretariat to reach out to Eurostat and its recently launched biomass reporting questionnaire.</p>
5 (b)	Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/4</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ECE_TIM_EFC_WP.2_2022_4_en.pdf	<p>The Joint Working Party:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Welcomed the information provided. b. Expressed appreciation for the work done. c. Requested the secretariat to further promote good cases at global and regional levels. d. Requested the secretariat to continue supporting the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the accelerated action and delivery of the scope of the Integrated Programme of Work 2022-2025 and the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan on Forests highlighting the example of the side event organized by the ECE/FAO Joint Section during the 17th session of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) (May 2021).

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5 (b)	Work Area 2: Policy dialogue and advice <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/4</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ECE_TIM_EFC_WP.2_2022_4_en.pdf	<p>The Joint Working Party thanked the Team of Specialists (ToS) on Forest Sector Outlook for their excellent work and congratulated the Joint Section for the successful completion of the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2020–2040. The Joint Working Party requested the secretariat to publish the remaining information, including detailed data, in 2022.</p> <p>Member States took note of the invitation by the secretariat to share possible events and opportunities to publicize the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2020-2024.</p> <p>Member States advised the secretariat to integrate the outcomes of the Outlook Study in the communication programme of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and promote the outcome of the study. It was also proposed to update the Outlook Study in sufficient time.</p>
5 (c)	Work Area 3: Communication and outreach <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/5</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ECE_TIM_EFC_WP.2_2022_5_en.pdf	<p>The Joint Working Party:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Welcomed and thanked the Team of Specialists on Forest Communication for the reports. b. Agreed to efforts to amplify the outreach of the Joint Section’s work by actively engaging on social media channels and continuing the Forest Information Billboard, including, if possible, in other languages leveraging on national and possibly also academic distribution points. c. Thanked the FAO secretariat, the ToS Communication as well the as Joint ECE/FAO Section for their excellent work, hugely increased media outreach and visibility. d. Highlighted the importance of shifting the image of forests and raising awareness also among the non-forest sector audience and end-users leveraging on a wide range of communication tools. e. Welcomed the example of the Joint Section’s successful urban forestry campaign contributing to bringing a topic to the forefront of international discussions.
5 (d)	Work Area 4: Capacity-building <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/6</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ECE_TIM_EFC_WP.2_2022_6_en.pdf	<p>The Joint Working Party took note of the report, emphasized the importance of activities within this work area and expressed support for the continuation of capacity-building efforts.</p>
6 (a)	Presentations see meeting website: https://unece.org/forests/jwpssem2022	<p>The Joint Working Party took note of the forest and wood related activities of ECE subprograms outside the scope of the Integrated Programme of Work.</p> <p>The Joint Working Party took further note of FAO’s work, outside of the Integrated Programme of Work, on forests in the ECE Region.</p>
6 (b)	Draft list activities for 2023 <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/Inf.4</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/2022-ece-tim-efc-wp-inf-4-e-only.pdf	<p>The Joint Working Party took note and supported the draft list of activities.</p> <p>The Joint Working Party adopted the preliminary list of activities planned for 2023 and noted that additional activities would depend on additional funds. Activities on data collection was highlighted as an important area to continue also in 2023. Since many of the activities in the plan were underfunded, delegations raised the need to prioritize and focus on areas under Work Area 1.</p>

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6 (c)	Annotated provisional agenda <i>ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2022/1</i> https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ECE_TIM_EFC_WP.2_2022_1_en.pdf	The Joint Working Party took note of the information and recommendations provided and encouraged its members to review and possibly apply the recommendations of the report nationally.
7		The meeting re-elected Ms. Magdalena Wolicka-Posiadała, Poland, as Chair. Mr. Matthias Dieter, Germany, and Mr. Michal Synek, Czech Republic, as Vice-Chairs until the end of the forty-fourth session.
10		The Joint Working Party adopted the report of its session.
